

Agency 144

Municipal Research Council**Recommendation Summary**

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2003-05 Expenditure Authority			4,621	4,621
Total Maintenance Level			4,621	4,621
Difference				
Percent Change from Current Biennium			0.0%	0.0%
Performance Changes				
Contractor Increase			300	300
Subtotal			300	300
Total Proposed Budget			4,921	4,921
Difference			300	300
Percent Change from Current Biennium			6.5%	6.5%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Municipal Research Services			4,921	4,921
Total Proposed Budget			4,921	4,921

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS**Contractor Increase**

In order to continue to provide good governance consultation to local jurisdictions, the Municipal Research Council will increase its contract with the Municipal Research and Services Center to cover the following items: a 4 percent salary increase for employees in the first year of the biennium; an increase in the existing lease agreement; and an increase in the costs of travel, goods, and services. (County Research Services Account, City and Town Research Services)

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS**Municipal Research Services**

The Municipal Research Council is composed of legislators, city and county officials, and one member appointed by the Governor. The council's primary purpose is to provide Washington's local officials with professional advice, research, and information on topics related to local government. The council has no independent staff, but contracts with the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development and with the Municipal Research and Services Center, a private non-profit agency in Seattle. Through the center, the council responds to requests for advice and information on municipal law, finance, growth management, public works, management, and operations. The center's library holds the state's largest collection of municipal reference materials, with over 12,000 volumes. The center also publishes many research articles and operates a web site that received 2.17 million visitors in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003. These consolidated services reduce the need for local staff and are especially crucial to smaller units of local government. (County Research Services Account-State, City and Town Research Services Account-State)